

## **AVP-AUSTRALIA 2006 NATIONAL REPORT**

For the Alternatives to Violence Project 2006 International Gathering 2006

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### **Country Details**

*This report was prepared by AVP(NSW) on behalf of AVP-Australia and may not include the full diversity of AVP/HIP activities that are occurring in AVP/HIP groups across Australia.*

Country profile (approx 300 words) including some background on why peace work is necessary/important in

AVP in Australia consists of 7 autonomous regional groups based in each Australian state with a support network linking the various groups. Australia is characterised by a large land mass with large distances between major centres and expensive airfares.

AVP-Australia has national gatherings, website ([www.avp.org.au](http://www.avp.org.au)) and a facilitators discussion egroup with a monthly facilitators 'e-news'

- New South Wales has 4 community groups in Sydney, Newcastle, Blue Mountains and Canberra (Australian Capital Territory – ACT), a Prison Group with programs in 5 prisons, and a HIP group based in Sydney and Canberra schools. It also supports a program of Interfaith workshops and a community program in Papua New Guinea;
- Northern Territory group is in Alice Springs (community)
- Queensland has two groups in Brisbane (prison, community & HIP) and Rockhampton
- South Australia's group is in Adelaide (community)
- Tasmania's group is not currently active
- Victoria's group is based in Melbourne (community & prison)
- Western Australia's group is in Perth (prison, community and HIP).

In Australia HIP (Help Increase Peace) is an integral part of AVP in the community. All HIP facilitators are trained in running HIP workshops and many are also trained AVP facilitators. All HIP co-ordinators are AVP trained facilitators.

In Australia there are typical problems of personal, domestic, criminal, drug-related, bullying, prison, community, school violence as in many communities. There are also problems with violence involving the indigenous Australian Aborigines and involving multifaith/multicultural groups.

Last year there was a program of 20 interfaith workshops across Australia in partnership with a Sydney Muslim organisation

How long has AVP been running in your country? – Since 1991

How many AVP workshops have been carried out annually? AVP (basic, advanced, T4F), CORE – What are CORE workshops?

There has not been time to collect detailed statistics from all local AVP groups

How many AVP facilitators do you have? –

There has not been time to collect detailed statistics from all local AVP groups

How do you decide where to conduct workshops?

Each local group makes the decision about how many workshops they have the resources to conduct and where they can get venues and participants

How do you develop your AVP facilitators?

- There is a program of free ongoing training for all facilitators
- Participation in many workshops – all facilitators participate in as many workshops (at all levels, including basic & advanced) as is practical
- There are two Introduction to Facilitation Workshops – T4F (focuses on presentation) and Role Play
- New facilitators start with the *AVP/HIP Sydney NSW Training Manual* and are issued with the other AVP & HIP manuals as they progress through the levels of workshop
- New facilitators start as a non-presenting facilitator and 'learn the ropes and observe the process' before presenting
- Each facilitator presents two basic workshops as an apprentice facilitator
- Facilitators are mentored by more experienced facilitators at every stage of their development, are empowered/encouraged to progress at their own pace
- Facilitators are encouraged to participate and facilitate in workshops conducted by other AVP and HIP groups both within NSW and elsewhere
- Facilitators are encouraged to be trained in restorative practices
- Many facilitators conduct professional experiential/transformational learning workshops in other forums such as HIP and Transforming Conflict workshops conducted in the TAFE (technical education system)
- A number of facilitators have also received adult education training, particularly those involved with teaching other courses
- Facilitators who do not facilitate a workshop for at least one year need to participate in a workshop and be re-selected as a facilitator
- All outmate facilitators are members of the non-hierarchical AVP(NSW) Council and responsible for all decision-making about the facilitation and organisation of workshops. Members of local groups and individual workshop teams make their own decisions within the overall guidelines.

A major part of our ongoing training is the recent development of a local training manual (*AVP/HIP Sydney NSW Training Manual*). It has been developed to

capture the learning from the wealth of experience of local AVP/HIP facilitators and the various types of workshops run by AVP(NSW) including HIP, Transforming Conflict, First Fridays and particularly the Interfaith workshop program. Activities have been adapted to respect cultural sensitivities. It has been particularly successful in empowering inmate facilitators.

Have you held any new training opportunities?  
see previous answer

How is AVP funded / sustained in your country?

- Fees from the community workshops, some grants, some donations, and some fundraising fund the community and prison workshops, workshop resources and ongoing facilitator training
- School HIP workshops are funded by the school district or individual school

### **Specific Programs running currently**

Are there any new models of AVP and/or related approaches that you are using? Why? ie are you running additional projects? How is this working?

- T4F workshops – cover learning about presentation skills not role play
- Role play workshops – focus on learning about presentation of role plays, role play activities and light n livelies
- Topic Advanced workshops – focus on specific predetermined topics like forgiveness, anger, relationships and interfaith. These are held for graduates of 'Consensus Advanced' workshops
- Interfaith – basic and topic advanced workshops plus advanced facilitators training for interfaith workshops have been held across Australia
- Advanced Facilitation workshops and training nights
- HIP – series of basic, advanced and T4F HIP workshops are held for school students and a separate series of basic, advanced and T4F HIP workshops are held for teachers, school administrators and parents. (HIP facilitators are paid as teachers by the sponsoring organisation and facilitate in teams). HIP workshops use 5 HIP keys rather than Transforming Power and the AVP Mandala. The HIP keys are care for others (yellow), respect yourself (blue), think before reacting (green), work together for a non-violent way (red) and expect the best (black).
- Transforming Conflict – subjects and courses have been developed for use with classes outside AVP/HIP using nonviolence experiential learning activities. These classes are subsets of HIP learning and do not include either the HIP keys or Transforming Power. These teachers are usually paid, they teach a class on their own and these classes can be held in schools, technical colleges and in commercial settings.  
There are two Transforming Conflict subjects that have been accredited as national TAFE (technical education) Communication modules. Many thousands of students in New South Wales and across Australia have studied these Communication conflict resolution subjects (well over 30,000).  
The Transforming Conflict training manual was published by TAFE NSW for TAFE communication teachers. Many TAFE teachers have received AVP or HIP training

- First Friday – mini workshops for a monthly support and community building group. These activities tend to be on a theme and are a combination of AVP, topic advanced and transforming conflict workshop learning activities. The activities are in less depth than for a full AVP workshop as there is not time to develop the required level of safety in two hour workshops. These workshops are being held regularly in the Sydney and Brisbane community groups and amongst the five prison groups of AVP inmate facilitators.

## **Evaluation**

How are you evaluating your AVP projects? -----

- Ongoing program of informal facilitator & participant feedback
- Community workshops - formal evaluation with collated participant feedback forms included in each workshop report

Have any of your AVP projects been externally evaluated? If so, by whom? -----

Would you be prepared to make these evaluations available to others to read? -----

Katherine Smith AVP(NSW)  
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